

Video 1

[Near constant squawking of birds in the background of the whole video]

Just going to be reading *Witch King*, by Martha Wells. Can't really prop this up very well...

"From the breakout superstar author of *Murderbot* comes a remarkable story of power and friendship, of trust and betrayal, and the families we choose.

'I didn't know you were a demon.' 'You idiot I'm *the* demon'.

“After being murdered, his consciousness dormant and unaware of the passing of time while confined in an elaborate water trap, Kai wakes to find a lesser mage attempting to harness Kai's magic to his own advantage. That was never going to go well.

“But why was Kai imprisoned in the first place? What has changed in the world since his assassination? And why did the rising world coalition appear to be growing in influence?

“Kai will need to pull pull his allies close and draw on all his pain magic if he has to answer even the least of these questions.

“He's not going to like the answer.”

See if I can zoom in. Is that going to zoom in a little bit?

[flips pages] Cool, a map.

Mmm, I hate it when they put words in the middle of the map so that you can't actually read that...

[skeptically] "conventiculum of the immortals"

[sound of conures squawking repeatedly]

Chapter 1.

I'll zoom back out.

That sounds like it's the kind of thing that would give you a heart attack, but, okay...

[Raised eyebrows] Astringent. Her voice is astringent.

Let me just read this. “Her mental voice astringent, Ziede said ‘Take your time Kai, wherever I am, I can't see, I can't move. I'm breathing, but I can't feel..I can't feel my chest move.’ He could hear the suppressed fear she added, "I can't find Tahren. She doesn't answer.’”

Why is her voice astringent? What is astringent supposed to be implying there?

That was page one.

That's pretty stupid, and overpowered, I have to say.

Uh the thing that's stupid is, he get—the demon guy gets his power from pain, so, it's just going to make him ridiculously overpowered, and means Martha Wells has even less—er more excuses not to let anybody become physically disabled, because if you're injured that — the pain will just make him be able to heal you.

“The skin of his hands was a familiar warm brown.” But Martha Wells is 100%, 100% overjoyed to let a cis white man play Murderbot, so, when this gets adapted, we'll see this character get whitewashed, and Martha Wells will cheer it on! Because she's a fucking racist who just tokenizes people in the books, and then will

literally shill for the trillion dollar corporation that is whitewashing her own protagonist.

She doesn't actually fucking care about minorities, or about actually being anti-racist. If she did, she would have nothing to fucking do with the Apple adaptation except scorn, for literally whitewashing the goddamn protagonist.

Can't help but do this. Of course you can't.

See, I fucking knew it.

We are only on page four.

Let's see... “The temporary power well created by Kai's own pain restored his new body. Bones knit and shifted back into place. A burst organ pulled itself together. The broken nose clicked into alignment. Splintered pieces of jawbone grew into new teeth, with a jabbing burst of pain that almost collapsed him to the floor. He breathed through it until his blood stopped bubbling, then shoved his jaw back until it clicked and held.”

And now that pain, from the healing being painful, is going to literally give him more power because God forbid we not be ableist.

Why are they suddenly mariners? They're just—the, the bad guys are suddenly being referred to as mariners, out of nowhere. “A mariner turned and strode toward them.” When did we establish they were mariners?

[Turns page back] Says they're dressed—‘they wore clothing *like* the mariners, mariners along the southeastern archipelagos’. That doesn't equate to they *are* mariners.

Whatever.

And we're now assuming all of their genders, because of course we are! Martha Wells doesn't *actually* give a shit about trans people at all.

“A woman mariner protested” Why are they women now? You j—you—she literally will pretend ‘oh I'm not assuming anybody's gender!’ then immediately assumes people's genders. Because you know she is *actually* a bigot.

Like, it's not actually difficult, you don't have to know the genders of the bad guys, because I guarantee you like all of these people are going to be dead in like 10 pages or less, probably, so we literally don't need to know if they're men, or women, or the token non-

binary people, so why are you telling us Martha? You just—you, you made a whole big deal about—Let me read that paragraph where their clothes....

“Four wore clothing like the mariners along the southeastern archipelagos, wide cotton pants gathered at the ankles, short open jackers—jackets, and broad leather belts. Two also wore the long kneelength shirts more common to women of that area.”

So yeah it's just we're going to assume everybody's genders based on their clothes, because despite reading the Imperial Radch, Martha Wells wants to assume everybody's genders.

“They were speaking a” — language — “Imperial Arike, too, the expositor correctly, and the mariners with a thick accent and slurred vowels.”

Why are you — Why are you saying that there's a correct way to speak the language? Just say they spoke with an accent...it's like...

That's a weird thing to say, but okay. Uh, “Another mariner laughed and drew a long knife he said” blah blah blah “he had a shallow prettiness that didn't reach past his tawny skin.” That's weird.

[sigh] Exactly what I fucking predicted. Blah “Stepped forward and stabbed Kai through the heart. Kai fell back against the plinth, the pain blacked out his vision,” the steel claw—“the steel cleaving already abused flesh as Tarrow moved away. Kai grabbed the knife. The edge cut into his fingers” and he pulled it— “as he pulled it out. He tossed it aside, ignoring the brief gush of blood down his chest as his flesh wove itself back together.

“The new power well blossomed under his skin pulsed like a second heart. ‘Now,’ Kai said, grinning as he shoved the veil aside, ‘Which one of you wants to go first?’”

And it's like, (sarcastically) wow, yeah who could have possibly foreseen that Martha Wells would use this to make her characters literally uninjurable, because every time they get hurt that literally just gives this fucker the power to heal it instantly? (end sarcasm)

[sigh] So her ableism is just going to keep increasing, because she doesn't actually care about physically disabled people, she doesn't even care about neurodivergent people unless they're the few specific kinds that she thinks are relatable.

Boo! Why are you —[sigh] So the protagonist already has the unstoppable ability to use pain for healing, and now he can hypnotize people.

“Come here, Tarrow’ Kai said, focusing his will, his smile pulling at tendon and bone that was still tender after its restoration. Caught like a petal in amber, Tarrow took si—” he should be named Taro, after the root but it's not— “took stiff steps towards him, resisting with all his mental strength, which, sadly for him, was not nearly adequate.”

Why, why are you giving him this ability too?

[sigh]“The expositor tried to cast an intention, something to bind Kai's new body.” Because using the word spell is too good for

Martha Wells, or Martha Wells is too good for using established fucking terms.

“But the pain of being stabbed had filled Kai with terrible power” Of course it did, of course it did.

And he can use this pain power not only to heal, not only to mind control people, he can use it to freeze all of them in place.

Well you don't have to tell us that explicitly, but whatever.

“Kai stood and backed away, almost stepping on the girl, who had been hovering close behind him. It said interesting things about her character, or maybe her recent past, that she found him less terrifying than anything else that might be in this place.”

And it's like, it's not a thing you have to tell us, you can just leave us to figure that out.

We get a description of Ziede, uh blah blah blah, “she had the same deep brown skin, high forehead, and long straight nose, her dark hair drawn back in dozens of braided rows the way she preferred to wear it.”

{1} “He was almost choking with relief and it made his voice thick. ‘You’re safe, Ziede.’” His actual concern for her is not actually clearly expressed through the rest of it though, just, we’re just being told he’s relieved, and was almost panicking we don’t actually get that sensation through the narration.

{2} “He was still so relieved it was hard to think.” but that’s not actually expressed in the narration or the narrative, whatever you want to call it, the descriptions.

{3} What boots? Wait. uh Kai asks the girl a question and she says “I guess?” “She had seated herself on the floor to pull the boots on, biting her lip as she wrapped the leather flaps over bruises and broken toes.” What are you talking about? When? What?

[turns page back] When was she given boots and why is she only putting them on now? [turns another page]

Okay, he, he threw some boots at her two pages ago, three pages ago, and then they— and then didn't give her time to put them on, and now she's only now—giving the opportunity to sit down and put them on.

That's weird.

And like, no mention of her, ~she was still carrying the boots he had thrown at her~, why, why are we, why are we just casually being told she has broken toes?! do you have any idea how painful a broken toe is?!

She's bite—“biting her lip as she wrapped the leather flaps over bruises and broken toes” like, literally broken toes??? How is she walking???? What????? Fucking sense does that make? ??

“Giving her something constructive to do would help ground her.” Talking about Ziede, it's like you're just going to therapyspeak your way through this?

So apparently he has a veil thing that seems to be embedded in his skull somehow, and he wants to get rid of it, even though pain gives him ultimate endless infinity levels of power, but whatever. who needs logic?

Like and I don't think we're going to get an explanation for why he wants to get rid of this, is there an actual limit to how much power you can have?

—

They're being very mean to this poor traumatized child.

—

Go away fruit fly.

—

We were told that the thing was embedded in his skull, but now it just takes untangling from his hair, because I guess we're forgetting the part where we were saying it was *embedded in his skull*.

—

“Where do you come from, Sanja?”

“The Mouth of the Sea of Flowers.” blah blah “Why didn’t you ask me my name before?”

“I didn’t want it until you were ready to give it to me.”

(sarcastically) Sure.

—

I don't know what that's supposed to mean. Um, I would say ‘I presume it will get explained’, but I've read books reviews for this book, and they say that you expect—you wait for things to get explained, they never get explained, so here's this thing:

“As he started away, Ziede said, ‘Kai. You should check your heart for a pearl.’

“He hesitated and shook his head. “It’s not there, Ziede.”

“‘Prove that to me, Kai,’ she persisted as he walked away. ‘Prove it.’”

Because we've already established that they have little tiny hardened drops of his blood, forming a pearl in their *hearts*, which lets them have mental walkie-talkie telepathy.

Okay, I'm going to pause so I can go to the bathroom and we're on chapter two.

Okay on chapter two

which is page 15 — 14.

I have this balance on my knees because there's nothing else for me to sit on.

That's just a weird way saying that they're looting the bodies for clothes and it says he "He took a braided silk cord that probably had some great significance to Menlas' family or culture and used it to tie back the section of his hair that most wanted to fall forward into his face." It's like, you don't have to tell us that he's desecrating sacred cultural artifacts...but all right.

There's like a little printing error here there's a very faint line um like a quarter of the way through the page, just going up and down the

page. And this book cost \$28.99 new, that's the, that's the guide price so, more than that and there's printer errors.

This is being written like it is the novelization / the fanfiction for a roleplaying game like Skyrim, and that's not a compliment.

Okay, so he has cut open his old dead body and found a “silver white pearl” inside.

Are you going to answer the fucking question? Okay, Sanja the kid that they were being mean to, uh asks "'How can you have something in your heart and not die?'" Uh, Kai says

"'That's a good question. A better one is “how can I have a pearl in my heart and not know”?’" Are you going to answer the fucking question???

Uh, Ziede says, "'I have one from Kai, for protection. He gave it to me and I swallowed it.'"

Not answering the question in any way. Just say it's magic, that's that's, honestly a good enough fucking question—answer.

“Someone we thought was a friend.” put the pearl in Kai's dead body's heart—well the body he fucking possessed—doesn't fucking belong to him, but whatever!

He has another power. Uh, “There were no lights in the upper part of the curving stone stairwell, so Kai called an imp the size of a dragonfly and they followed its darting glow upward.” There's never been—we weren't told there were imps flying around in here before, it's not like he's *luring* one closer it's—He's just summoning it out of nowhere. No explanation.

So, he can: heal, he can brainwash / mind control, hypnotize and freeze people in place and also suck people's souls from their bodies so that they turn into a desiccated husk, *and* he can summon imps. No further explanation given.

—

this kid is not not—

When uh—“Behind him, Ziede was interrogating Sanja.” Which I might be pronouncing wrong, could be pronounced Sonia, we don't fucking know because there's no pronunciation guide in the person-uh personae dramatist...person whatever! “‘When we got here it was night, but they waited until morning.’ Sanja huffed critically. ‘I guess they thought it was safer.’”

“Now that the body’s memories had faded, he would never know anything more about the former occupant. Of all the things he had to be angry about at this moment, it should be a minor consideration. But it wasn’t.” So we are expressing anger over the person who used to inhabit this body that he just stole, but seven books into The Murderbot Diaries were still expected to be fine with torturing other slaves? Make it make fucking sense.

“He could have taken longer to kill Menlas and his hirelings, but it wasn’t like punishment ever fixed anything. Kai had been punished by eager experts, and it had just made him more determined.” That's a weird thing to randomly throw in, but okay.

They're supposed to be like climbing or something but we're not actually getting any descriptions of what they're doing, they're just

kind of internal monologuing and talking and it's not very good. I guess they're climbing some stairs, but that's not clear.

“Do you know who I am, Sanja?” Sanja? I'm just going to say that name every which way. Kai asked.

“No... Not... No,” She admitted. ‘I don’t really know what a demon is. You’re like an expositor?’

“Just tell her, Kai” then she got to it— Ziede said, then was too impatient, “He’s Kaiisteron, the Witch King.”

Blah blah ‘but that's just a story’ blah blah blah.

They're at the top of the tower on the invisible stairs that weren't described that they were supposed to be climbing this whole time. {4} “Kai flung out his arms and twirled, taking a deep breath of wind with a hint of storm rain to it. He hadn't realized how the weight of the surrounding water and the enclosed space had worn on him until now.” And yeah that wasn't expressed in the narration at all.

“He released the light imp with a wave. It sped away so fast it winked out of sight. Imps weren't keen on water and enclosed spaces

either.” But where did he get the fucking imp? Where did it come from? Did he just summon it out of thin air? Did he just teleport some random imp from somewhere, and it has to come to him like??

Yeah, we're just going to keep using the word intention instead of spell and it's irritating.

Ziede seems to magically know where they are, because of reasons.

Ziede can fly.

Also we're describing the wind very suddenly as wind-devils, who are “playfully plucking at Ziede's clothes and hair”, and... where'd it go... “Ziede stepped into the wind devil that opened like a flower for her.” ... “;It’s not flying, it’s entity manipulation,’ Ziede corrected in annoyance.”

Uh, we're not going to get an explanation for what wind-devils are, apparently, but I guess they're just invisible wind spirits that will carry her places.

They're climbing down into a giant upside down shell that is on the back of a whale. Or...maybe it's not upside down. It's weird. “Kai went down the spiral steps into the shell's pearly interior. The step—the steps led to the shell's uppermost chamber.” Whatever.

I will say for Martha Wells, she just loves pulling shit out of a hat and then never does anything with it so you might think "Oh there's a whale that has a, a giant shell on the back that people use for transportation, that's really cool!" We'll probably never see one ever again once they get off of this one, because that's how she usually does things.

We're just treating this like it's a fanfiction or the sequel to a book everybody else has already read here's this random sentence from nowhere:

“The expositors originally conscripted and trained for the Hierarchs’ use” had long—“had survived long—” there's fruit flies flying around, I don't know why they have fruit flies here, go the fuck away.

“The expositors originally conscripted and trained for the Hierarchs’ use had survived long enough to pass their knowledge along to apprentices. Whoever had taught Menlas had let him think he was powerful enough to enter a sealed tomb meant as a trap for the immortal Witch King. Possibly it had been meant as an elaborate method of murder.”

Sanja asks Ziede "Is he your husband?" And Ziede responds "Devils of the four winds no, we're old friends."

[trying to adjust camera] I don't think that helped at all.

“He felt the whale’s mind, old and patient and simmering with a slow fury at its captivity. He wove his way inside and told it, ‘I want to ride you even less than you want to carry me. If you take us for a

time to the southeast, first to the fire-under-water and then to a mortal port, I'll break the chains that hold this thing atop you and send you on your way.'”

~I want to enslave you even less than you want to be enslaved. Now be my fucking slave and *then* I'll let you go.~ And it's like...

“The answer came back on an eddy in the current: ‘Why should I trust?’

“Always a good question. Kai replied, I wore chains once, too.”

Well so the fuck did Murderbot, and yet Murderbot is still murdering and torturing other slaves to death seven books into the series, Martha Wells, so forgive me for not fucking thinking that matters!

“He sent the whale an image, a memory, of the old Cageling Demon Court” those are all capital letters, by the way, “in the Summer Halls of the Hierarchs,” also all capital letters, “how he had huddled there with the diamond chains around his throat and wrists, the perpetual rain soaking his ragged clothes, searing his skin.” All right. Why are you acting like this is a sequel to a book that doesn't fucking exist, referencing that, *like that*, is, is treating this like a sequel.

The whale believes him. ~Oh he was a slave once too so that means I should trust him~ even though that's not that doesn't apply to Murderbot. But whatever,

“Whatever mortal thought this was a good” idea “to travel was a masochist, as well as uncaring of the captive whale’s pain.” You're literally one to fucking talk, you literally still want us to be okay with the protagonist torturing slave to death in The Murderbot Diaries, and I'm going to keep complaining about that forever.

Let me see if I can move this, that light was making weird flickers before, but I want to put my legs down.

Also that Dramatis Personae at the start of the book that I read in the other video, which I didn't reread for this one, we got told the name of a character named Menlas as though he's going to be important, but he's dead already, so it's like...why did you waste my fucking time with that? Why is there a Dramatis Personae at the start of the book telling us shit about the characters that we should know when they get introduced?

{5}“This is all very distressing” the character has to say, because their distress is not in any way conveyed through the fucking narration. {6}“Kai made a noise of displeasure at this massive

understatement.” It's not an understatement, though, because neither of you are reacting like you're in distress.

Again we're just treating this like it's a sequel to a book everybody's already fucking read. Um:

“‘A good plan,’ Ziede said. She took his hand between both of hers and said, ‘Well, this is all very distressing.’

Kai made a noise of displeasure at this massive understatement and slumped down so he could put his head on her shoulder. They had known it might be unwise to go to court of the Rising World coalition renewal, but it would have been equally unwise not to appear in answer to Bashat’s summons. ‘And things were going so well.’”

And it's like. Why are you talking about these things like this is a book we've already read, and this is book two?

Uh we're randomly getting some thing. “‘There’s a way to place a heart pearl, without asking for consent. I’m not sure it would work on a mortal, but on me... If the pearl was formed and then ground up

in water—or wine. If I drank it. It would take a while to form, and it would depend on... a lot of things. But it's a possibility.'" Because he, the last thing he remembers is drinking wine with a friend slash lover, maybe.

"“And?” He could hear the worried frown in Ziede’s voice.

"“If someone did that. If he used it to put me under his will. And if then he drowned me.’ His throat had gone tight. ‘If that is what happened.’”—Those are all very abrupt sentences.

~And if then he drowned me.~

"“Oh, Kai.’

"“There was too much sympathy in Ziede’s tone now and he forced himself to laugh. It came out more like a sardonic squawk. He said, ‘I’m starting to think that a mortal Prince-heir who wanted to consort with a demon in human form may not be a completely trustworthy person.’

"“Ziede sighed again. ‘You think? The first one we met was.’

"“Kai’s smile was bitter. ‘He was an exception.’”

All right.

Uh, I don't know if this is chapter three now. Or would this be..let me go back....chapter three, but it's not called chapter three, it's called

The Past: The Beginning.

Um, there's a random thingamajig at the start of this... I'll just read it.

“I dream of the world as it was: Suneai-arik and a hundred caravans a day from the north, with silks and icewine and amber and books, canal barges from the ports of the Arkai with the treasures and curiosities of the archipelagoes. The people, familiar and strange, merchants from Nibet, Enalin scholars and diplomats, sailors of Erathi and Palm, even a solitary Grass King from the far west. The food, the music, the laughter.

“They say that Salasi the satirist saw what was coming and flushed the birds from their cages in the forum garden. But they all fell from the sky when the voice of the Hierarchs’ Well rose.

“Letter found in the Benais-arik archives, attributed to an unnamed survivor of Suneai-arik”

That's just at the start of this chapter, where we are now in ~The Past: The Beginning~.

And now we're calling the one thing the “underearth” with no capitalization at all.

Okay so I guess Kai is a little baby living with some indigenous-coded people, called the Saredi, and they call him Kai-Enna because he's in a kid's body whose name was Enna, and I guess they've adopted him. And by a baby I mean a kid, not a baby-baby.

Let me preheat the oven so I can make food while I'm reading.

Also her asking like, stating ~Oh it says interesting thing about this little girl's character that she's less terrified~ and blah blah blah but it's like, okay but I do need an explanation for why she watches like,

five people get completely massacred in front of her and has almost no reaction. You are going to have to explain that.

Go away fruitfly.

—

So, okay we have one disadvantage so far for Kai, it's that horses don't like him, because he's a demon, and they can smell him. That's at least one disadvantage. Not really a big deal, because there will probably be some magical horses that like him, or something, so that they never have to worry about how they have to walk everywhere, because they can't use horses.

—

They apparently have something called spirit-workers that purify their water for them at this...like, just general town.

Uh, Adeni, which is little kid Kai's friend, said "'So who are you going to marry?' Kai laughed. 'Nobody. I'm only supposed to have babies.' Grandmother had explained that on the first day Kai had awoken in late Enna's body. The clan hoped for at least one baby, would be pleased for more, but Kai was absolutely not to do

anything that might cause a baby for three more full rounds of the seasons. It wasn't because they were waiting for Enna to change; her body would stay as it was at the moment of her death until Kai left it. But Grandmother said the delay was to make sure Kai understood mortal life. He had one more season to go, though he felt he understood it pretty well at this point."

So...[flips pages back, then forward again].....So they want this demon who's in the body of a child to still produce babies in the body of a fucking child? Presumably the body will be the one getting pregnant...yeah okay, yeah, they said her body and knowing Martha Wells, she's not trans, so that's fucking gross.

These indigenous-coded people are totally fine with pedophilia.
(Sarcastically) Way to go Martha Wells.

And then Adeni clearly has a crush on Kai *or* Enna's body, and he is half a season round older than Enna's body.

That's such a weird statement—let me just read this to you:

“Adeni pulled his quiver higher on his shoulder. “Right, but that doesn't mean you can't marry someone, too.” He flicked a quick smile at Kai, somehow shyer than his usual broad grin. He was half a

season round older than Enna's body and had been the first one to grab Kai's arm and drag him outside after the awakening ceremony. They had run all the way around Kentdessa, under the giant cable web of the outer supports.” —What does that fucking mean?

Are you telling me that this, this kid who is his friend, has had a crush on this body since before the owner—original owner, Enna—died, and then literally ran off with Kai the second he was possessing Enna's body? And is now hinting that he wants to marry Kai and Enna's body? That's fucking creepy!

“‘Marry who?’ Kai demanded. Then he had a sudden suspicion. ‘Marry you?’

‘Well, me and Varra and Iludi.’ These were two other cousins.”

Also they're all cousins, so it's like, what the fuck?

Adeni wants him to think about it.

Why —why do these people want him to have babies and get pregnant in the body of a child? Like how many did they fucking — How many babies did they say they're expected for him to have?

“Grandmother” —no name, just Grandmother —“had explained that on the first day Kai had woken in Enna's body. The clan hoped for at least one baby,” but and “would be pleased for more” they literally want this child's body to produce babies for them.

This is on —

that's gets revealed on page 29 for the record.

Um they just got to the river that they were walking to without any description, just dialogue and stuff, and uh discovered that the rope bridge — temporary rope bridge —got destroyed in a storm last night that nobody noticed for some reason.

Um there's this dialogue:

“Well this is shitty.” it's just really fucking funny and out of place for them to suddenly be swearing.

Adeni's like ~We can just wade across~ And then Kai's like ~I can't, did you forget I'm a demon.~

“Water doesn't hurt, does it?” Adeni poked Kai in the shoulder “I've seen you take baths.” ‘No it just feels strange when it's between me and the ground.”

So. He's not actually weak to water, it doesn't actually hurt him, it just feels weird.

And appa— they've agreed to cross the river, even though it'll feel weird, and apparently is something they'll get in a lot of trouble for if anybody finds out.

[oven beeps for preheating]

I am petsitting and these people have the filthiest oven I've ever seen, it smells like a fireplace.

Where was I? Yeah he's just walking in the river and it's totally fine, it's not hurting him at all it feels weird, but it's not like, freezing him in place, he's not paralyzed he's not overcome with absolute pure panic, it's just fine. He doesn't like the idea of possibly getting shoved over as a prank, but he's fine, so the literal only disadvantage he has so far that he can't just overcome by just...*going* is horses don't like him.

“Every time Kai stepped onto a sandbar or climbed atop a tree trunk, his connection to the” underneath— [holds book up to face]the under...earth? I don't know if—Let me go back to the start and look through that... [flips to front of book]

Apparently I've been reading that wrong the entire time. I was reading it as underneath it's under *earth* in the Dramatis Personae, so...Why would you do that?

Uhm every time he “stepped onto a sandbar or climbed atop a tree trunk, his connection to the underearth returned, a warm flicker under his skin. This wasn’t as hard as he had expected and he was glad Adeni had talked him into it.” So it's literally not actually a disadvantage. —

So some monster— “a gray shape rose up to tower over them it opened a round mouth with a rictus of fangs and slammed the shattered tree aside”.

[moves camera] I wish I had something actual to prop this up on but whatever. No it's not going to work.

These are just weird sentence structures. Uh “He shouldn't have been able to drain that beast, and yet.” period “And in water too.” Period.

Um a mortal person from I presume another clan is asking “Why was he placed in the body of a small youth?” So, and, and the answer is, “Because he *is* a youth.”

And the, the original child was dying, and they wanted to honor her family, but okay so, so they expect not only the child's *body* to produce babies, which means some fucking adult is going to have to have sex with the body of a child, this *demon* in the body of this child is *also* a young, like there's “a small youth” that's what they're describing it as, “a small youth”. How old is this child?

And then they're saying they put him in the body of a child *because* he *is* a child, so...why is Martha Wells doing this?

This isn't, none, nobody seems to have a fucking problem with this.

So it's pedophilia all the way through, because *he's* not even an adult. What the fuck.

And, and they want him they, they, everybody so everybody here knows that he is a child, in the body of a child, with the mind of a

child and they want him to get pregnant, and make babies for them.
Because the body he is in is female. [Sigh]

Hold on let me just let me just—

“A mortal Raneldi elder asked, 'But why was he placed in the body of a small youth?'

“'Because he is a youth.' Grandmother stroked his hair. 'And Enna was dying, and the honor was due to her line.' Enna's elders eyed the Raneldi without favor.”

So everybody's getting *pissy* at the one person just asking a basic question of ‘why did you put this demon in the body of a young child’ which means Martha Wells wants us to think that the person asking ‘why did you put this demon in the body of a small child’, she wants you to think that that person is a bad and evil and disrespectful for asking a basic fucking question.

Martha Wells does this a lot.

—

And they're saying that that kind of animal isn't native here and it was under a spell which they are calling... “It was under geas”, G E A S, no pronunciation offered at all.

Yeah, Adeni died from the, the random animal attack that we don't actually get a description for.

Why are you telling us that we go from being in the moment, to then we interrupt it with “Kai knew it had been the death of his mortal cousin, ” which he's supposed to marry... “but he hadn’t known it had been the beginning of the death of the Saredi. That Erathi had already fallen and the Hierarchs’ forces were on their way.”

Like why, what, you could have just...not said that part.

Chapter Three.

And we're back in the shell—the enslaved shell whale that we're not freeing until it does what they want.

we're on page 36 for the record.

This fruit fly needs to go away

No it's not. We're saying that the whale thinks of the world as large object-objects as islands as “large objects that blocked currents which was hard to translate into anything that could be expressed on a paper map” and it's like, that wouldn't be difficult at all you just draw the fucking currents and where there's no currents there's land.

“From below, Ziede was giving Sanja a history lesson, because she couldn't stand ignorance.”

“And they really used demons to fight their wars?” Sanja asks.

Ziede says “No, that was another lie. They enslaved demons and Witches as familiars, to give to their expositors, to help them focus their power,”

That's not the same thing?

Hold on cuz I'm getting a headache so I'm getting a thingy. You can just sit there.

Ginger hard candy.

So they— ~didn't they use demons to fight their wars?~ ~no they just use demons and witches to fight their wars~. Okay.

—

[dog starts howling lowly]

What are you doing? [howling stops] It's Lightning the husky yodelling over there

[howling starts again, slowly increasing in volume]

[laughing] [howling pauses] What are you doing? [howling starts again]

[from offscreen, laughing] Are you just yodeling? What are you doing? You're not going to do it? You're not even yodeling at anybody in particular. What you doing with those big paws? What you doing? Go get the toy! [Dog howls shortly] You're silly.

[back] He's bored but they can't really play outside cuz it just rained like, literally torrential, starting like instants.

[humming]

So they're saying that somebody sealed the connections to the underearth, which is where all the demons and apparently imps live, and there's some cracks in it but it's still sealed.

So, with the little pearl of his hardened blood that is in Ziede's heart, he can not only send her thoughts, so they have internal walkie-talkies, um he can like send out a little thingy, and then she can let him see through her eyes. Presumably, since it's a big deal that he has a—that his other last body had had it a pearl put it against his will, I'm s—Hold on, hold on, hold on. What was the last fucking body called...? [turns pages]

[Dog starts howling lowly in background]

There he goes again, yodeling. He's just draped on the couch over there yodelling like that.

So was the body that was just trapped in a coffin and killed Enna, the like, little girl? [Dog's howling gets louder, starts to turn into a usual howl, stops abruptly.] [laughing] You sound like a demon. [Dog starts howling again much louder, stops.]

I'm surprised the other two aren't joining in yet [Dog howls again still louder, two more dogs join in.] There they go. [Dogs howling and yipping] Enjoy.

[Dogs howling]

[Dogs howling]

[Dogs stop howling]

And they always stop very abruptly, too. You guys are silly. And he ta, Lightning, taught the other two to howl, they never did this before he got here.

I guess we've just forgotten that Sanja apparently has broken toes, cuz nothing has been mentioned of that ever.

[Birds squawking and chirping]

“Ziede's tone turned brisk. ‘Now do you want to hear more about the fall of the Hierarchs and the rise of the arike Prince-heirs and the Rising World alliance?’ Sanja said, ‘Yes please!’”.

So they've come to some volcanic island, which is a conduit to the under-earth, so that Kai can talk to somebody called the Overlord with a capital O, even though under-earth is not capitalized.

We keep getting references to Witches with a capital W, and they can send their souls down to the under-earth. We've just been informed that Kai used to have a body down there, but that was killed, so now he just has to send his mind down, like Witches do.

So the Overlord...is sitting on a, a throne made of skulls which are her family members that she keeps for sentimental reasons, “She had pale horns curving back from her head, a muscular scaled body ending in a long powerful tail that spilled off the throne, the tip a narrow spade shape that flicked impatiently, her pale wings the texture of mortal skin were half furled”

He calls her Overlord and she says "Since you're still alive you you can call me Mother.”

...So this is his mom. Sometimes they just be formal for diplomatic reasons.

Uh since they're being friendly, uh, “others crept up to the pavilion or dropped down from its eaves. They were smaller versions of Mother” which is just has a capital M, not, we're not referring to him as his mother— her as *his* mother, just Mother with a capital M.

“With blue or black shading on their wings. Some had tails split into two or three or more segments, some even had humanlike legs, but heavy dark claws on their feet. Vaiisterite, one of Kai's siblings, landed beside Mother's throne and crouched at its foot. Mother tilted her head skeptically and said ‘Surely this was not a surprise to find yourself in a trap, considering the mortals you associate with.’”

[shakes head]

So his mom is trying to pressure him into *also* getting married to make half mortal babies for people.

His mom says, "Stop being over dramatic." And we get the line "Kai would have loved to, if dramatic things would stop happening to him." I guess that's supposed to be funny. [turns page]

I guess the mom is supposed to have a snake tail instead of legs? That wasn't properly explained, but whatever.

This is annoying. I, I don't know why we're interrupting the story to go chat and hang out with people in the under-earth, it's like, it's just a casual visit.

{7}“Kai curled up beside her on the cushions, feeling the tightness around his heart ease for the first time since he had woken in his glass coffin.” But again, his *supposed* distress that we are just keep repeatedly being told that he is in, is not actually expressed through the narration *at all*. We are never shown him being in any kind of distress or unease, we're just told, like we're just told ~Oh he's not distressed anymore. Cuz he's sitting with Grandmother, with a capital G, who doesn't have any other name.~

Now I have questions. This is a fantasy world, but they have both ginger and almond, because they're making ginger almond tea, but whatever.

Uh, he's asking Grandmother to just scry—we're not using the word scry though—to scry on their famil-- Ziede's family members, to make sure they're okay. She says blah blah blah “Lika, go” which is one of the servants names “go and bring a seeing bowl, we'll summon some wraithlings” wraith-lings. So whatever.

And now we're learning that Tahren, which seems to be Ziede's wife or partner, uh, her name is Tahren Stargard she's an Immortal Marshall, with capital I, capital M.

[shakes head] This is literally just—This is just reading like it's the sequel to a book that doesn't fucking exist. uh “Grandmother frowned i never understood why a Witch like Ziede”

— So this is the first time we get an inkling that Ziede is a fucking Witch with a capital W.

Uh...where'd it go...

“I never understood why a Witch like Ziede wanted to lie with a Hierarch's dog.’ Kai was patient. ‘Tahren betrayed the Hierarchs, that's why they call her the Fallen” With a capital F to be edgy.

Like that's, this is—this is sounding like, this is supposed to be the summary that you get at the start of a book in a long-running series, when this is the sequel to the first book where all the shit that they're referencing happened.

—

Go away fruit fly.

We get another name for a spell, which is a cantrip. So they're saying you would need “a strong binding cantrip” to trap an Immortal Marshall somewhere.

And Kai is like, “But if somewhere strong enough to contain a Witch exists I would know about it” for some reason. In the entire fucking planet, man?

that's such a weird sentence structure uh “She paused while a servant stood to hand them both cups of the ginger milk.” Period. “Kai accepted his and the scent was like a breath of childhood.” Period. “Meeting Grandmother here for the first time, when she had visited in mortal form, in a place dreamed to look like her rooms in the tent of Kentdessa Saredi.” period. It's just weird.

And again, we're just doing this thing where the characters just sit around talking about the problem and not in a way that's engaging in any way, it's just there to fill up the fucking page count. [Sigh]

We're just doing this. We're just sitting around discussing, uh, ~how you can trap an Immortal Marshall~, a thing we have no context for. And it's annoying.

We're not even waiting—we're—This isn't even *just* waiting until they bring back the little scrying pool thing, that somebody was told to go get, they're just speculating based on....what? Nothing?

—

Now they've finally brought in the fucking scrying bowl.

—

“The servant” Leeka? Lyka? Lih-ka? L I K A, however that's supposed to be pronounced, “returned carrying a bowl of water. The others hastened to remove the plates and cups from the sand so Lika could set the bowl down” That could have just been ‘so she could put the bowl down’

“All the servants gathered around and Kai sat up to see better. Floating just above the surface of the bowl was a wraithling. Lika said ‘This wraithling lives above the mass grave along the ruins of the old western trade road in Saleos, up from what used to be the port of Lossnos.’”

None of these names make any sense to us, and mean nothing!

“It looked like wisps of gauzy cloud, wrapped around a narrow body with a lot of spiny legs and arms, its head a diamond shape with tiny green spots for its eyes. The little creatures had an attraction for altars, sanctuaries, tombs, and graves. They were generally harmless unless abused. Lika had summoned it so she would have to do the questioning.”

There should have just been a comma there. ‘Lika had summoned it, comma, so she would have to do the questioning.’

Also, why did she summon it? She was just told to go bring the bowl. I thought Grandmother was supposed to be doing this shit, but whatever.

—

Lyken—“Lika had summoned it” there's no comma, “So she would have to do the questioning. Grandmother motioned for Kai to speak and he said ‘Ask if it can see Avagantrum.’” Now they were so—
{8}“Now they were close to answers his heart was starting to pound from nerves and he swallowed the tension down. Allowing his agitation to show wouldn't help Lika concentrate.”

And again, we've been given no, nothing in the anything, besides these little snippets of ~Oh he was nervous~ to show that he's nervous. We're just getting told that. [turns page]

Now, we're just getting told that {9} Kai is so concerned about the people presumably at this house that's called Avagantrum, he's, he's too scared to ask if there's any recent ghosts visible.

—

Now they—Now we told they also have olives, because “Grandmother takes a little olive cake”.

—

[rolls eyes] We can't—we get a description of somebody, the wraithing is describing somebody as wearing women's clothing, and

then they also ~just happen~ to be a woman, which Kai confirms, so we can't even get somebody gender non-conforming.

Okay so the, the little wraithling that they are summoning is able to go into the house called Avagantrum, and is talking to somebody in the garden, and confirming that nobody knew where they were, they assumed they were was somebody else, and they disappeared months and months ago.

And they don't know where the other two people are, and the person asks:

“Uncle are you all right?”

“Tell her we're fine.” Kai said. Even if it wasn't true and would be less true once Ziede heard that Tahren wasn't safe at home.”

And it's like, but you are all right. You are literally fine. Why are we acting like they're not fine?

No, it's not like anybody remembers that Sanja apparently has broken fucking toes that weren't even healed magically, so whatever, she's just walking around on broken toes. Everybody forgot that part.

Okay so they let the wraithling go so it doesn't get tired.

This is such a weird little setup here, uh Kai's sister, whose name is Vai, says "You're going back up there, aren't you."

And then we get this response, with no dialogue. "Kai couldn't live down here," Comma. "not as the demon prince he no longer was," comma "and not with Grandmother as a part-human," comma "insulated in the perpetual past of a world that he had seen violently destroyed." Period "And Vai had never lived in the upper world," comma "would never understand what having a mortal family was like." period.

It's just, it's just weird.

Okay, pausing to eat the food.

Video 2